We Claim:

Sub A1

1. A synthesized oligourea comprising all or part of the basic-arginine rich region of Tat.

2. A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 1 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

5. A synthesized oligourea comprising all or part of the sequence disclosed in Figure 1A

6. A synthesized oligourea comprising all or part of the structure disclosed in Figure 1B

7. A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 5 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the oligourea of claim 5 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

10. A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 6 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

13. A composition that has a high and specific binding affinity for a nucleic acid, comprising oligourea.

14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the oligourea additionally has amino acid side-chains incorporated at the R_1 and R_2 positions of the chemical structure in Figure 1B.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein the amino acid side chains correspond in sequence to those of a nucleic acid-binding protein.

16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the amino acid side chains correspond to the Tat protein.

17. The composition of claim 16, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to residues 48 - 57 of the Tat protein.

18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to SEQ ID NO:1.

19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to the SEQ ID NO:1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the carboxyl-terminus.

20. A method of inhibiting a protein-nucleic acid interaction, comprising introducing the composition of claim 13.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the composition of claim 13 is introduced into a human patient.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the composition of claim 16 is introduced to a human patient infected by the HIV-1 virus.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the composition of claim 13 is introduced into an isolated cell.

24. A kit comprising the composition of claim 13 in a container.

25. A kit, comprising the composition of claim 13 in a container and instructions to carry out the method of claim 20.

26. A composition of claim 13, which binds to nucleic acids, which has a disassociation constant (K_D) less or equal to 0.70 μM.